



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,360	10/14/2003	Naris Komolrochanaporn		4394

7590 06/02/2004
Jack C. Munro
Suite 225
28720 Roadside Drive
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

EXAMINER

NICHOLSON, ERIC K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3679

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/685,360

Applicant(s)

KOMOLROCHANAPORN, NARIS

Examiner

Eric K Nicholson

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10-14-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,312,019 to Nakazumi et al.. The Nakazumi et al. patent discloses the present invention with a push-pull pipe coupling adapted for a pair of pipe sections, the pipe coupling including a hollow connector 1 having an internal chamber within which is adapted to be located a pipe section (not shown, column 3, lines 38-39), surrounding the pipe section is a coupler, the coupler including a grab ring housing 11 which is annular in configuration and is located

about the pipe section, the grab ring housing 11 having an interior surface that is formed into an annular concavity (see fig. 1) the coupler including a grab ring 10 mounted within the concavity, the grab ring 10 having an annular wall which has a plurality of inwardly extending biting members 10a, the biting members 10a adapted to abut against the pipe section; and whereby the biting members are acute angularly disposed relative to the pipe section (see fig. 1) and upon movement in a withdrawing direction of the pipe section from the internal chamber the biting members are cause to pivot to a smaller acute angle and dig into the pipe section forming a securement between the connector and the pipe section, see column 4, lines 1-20. As to claim 2, see the splits in the grab ring 10 as shown in fig. 1. As to claim 4 see the rear wall 11a in fig. 1. As to claim 5 see column 4, line 8 which indicated that the grab ring housing is formed of synthetic resin. As to claim 6 see column 3, lines 55-60 which states the grab ring is formed of metal.

Claims 1,2,4,7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 4,895,395 to Ceriani. The Ceriani patent discloses the present invention in fig. 3 with a push-pull pipe coupling adapted for a pair of pipe sections, the pipe coupling including a hollow connector 1 having an internal chamber within which is adapted to be located a pipe section 6, surrounding the

Art Unit: 3679

pipe section is a coupler, the coupler including a grab ring housing 4 which is annular in configuration and is located about the pipe section 6, the grab ring housing 4 having an interior surface that is formed into an annular concavity (see fig. 3) the coupler including a grab ring 5 mounted within the concavity, the grab ring 5 having an annular wall which has a plurality of inwardly extending biting members (column 2, lines 45-50) , the biting members adapted to abut against the pipe section 6 and the biting members are acute angularly disposed relative to the pipe section (see fig. 3) and upon movement in a withdrawing direction of the pipe section from the internal chamber the biting members are cause to pivot to a smaller acute angle and dig into the pipe section forming a securement between the connector and the pipe section, see column 1, lines 55-65. As to claim 2, see column 2, line 51 which indicates the ring is split. As to claim 4 see the rear wall in fig. 3 as formed by the groove in the grab ring housing in which the grab ring is seated. As to claim 7 grab ring housing having a front surface being annular and beveled as shown in fig. 3 and as to claim 8 the front surface connects with an annular beveled surface formed on a retaining cap 18 which functions to close the internal chamber.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 3,018,785 to Adams. The Adams device discloses in figs. 2-4 the present invention with a push-pull pipe coupling adapted for a pair of pipe sections, the pipe coupling including a hollow connector 8 having an internal chamber within which is adapted to be located a pipe section 10, surrounding the pipe section is a coupler, the coupler including a grab ring housing 19 which is annular in configuration and is located about the pipe section, the grab ring housing 19 having an interior surface that is formed into an annular concavity (see fig. 2) the coupler including a grab ring 23 mounted within the concavity, the grab ring 23 having an annular wall which has a plurality of inwardly extending biting members 23b, the biting members 23b adapted to abut against the pipe section; and whereby the biting members are acute angularly disposed relative to the pipe section (see fig. 1) and upon movement in a withdrawing direction of the pipe section from the internal chamber the biting members are cause to pivot to a smaller acute angle and dig into the pipe section forming a securement between the connector and the pipe section, see column 2, lines 30-50. As to claim 2, see the splits in the grab ring 23 as shown in fig. 1. As to claim 3 as shown in fig. 3 the annular concavity has a forward wall which is located at an acute angle that is less than the acute angle of the biting members prior to the withdrawing movement of

Art Unit: 3679

the pipe section. As to claim 4 see the rear wall of the grab ring housing 19 in fig.

2. As to claim 5 see column 2, line 14 which indicates that the grab ring housing is formed of rubber. As to claim 6 see the cross hatchings of the grab ring which indicates the grab ring is formed of metal. As to claim 7 the grab ring housing has a front surface 36, the front surface being annular and beveled as shown in fig. 4 and as to claim 8 the front surface connects with an annular beveled surface 17 formed by a bent over retaining cap which functions to close the internal chamber.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Nicholson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0829. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola, can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for Technology Center 3600 is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

Application/Control Number: 10/685,360

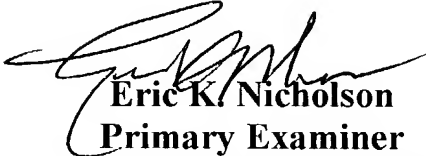
Page 8

Art Unit: 3679

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system,
contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

ekn

5/26/04


Eric K. Nicholson
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600